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FLOOR DEBATE

April 2, 2002

LB 460, 1212

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Senator.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Erdman, you're recognized for a motion to advance.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Mr. Speaker, I move the advancement of LB 460 to E & R for engrossing.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I oppose the Tyson amendment. Senator Tyson is not here today but I would like to speak to this amendment. It was our understanding that LB 1212, which has been adopted as an amendment to LB 460, was introduced by Senator Tyson as a result of a proposed closing dissolution of a Class I district in Madison County, Kalamazoo Public School. None of the high school districts with which Kalamazoo is currently affiliated have 50 percent or more of the Kalamazoo land affiliated with it. Prior to the passage of the affiliation laws, Class I districts were independent taxing entities. Taxes were levied against the land in the Class I district to support the operation of a Class I school and to pay nonresident tuition to the high school district which provided the high school education for students residing in the Class I district once they reached high school. Starting in 1990, the Legislature passed a series of laws which required Class I districts which were not a part of a Class VI system to affiliate with one or more Class II, III, or IV, or V districts. The first affiliation, as stated by the Legislature, was to place all taxable property and all elementary and high school students shall be in school systems which offer education in grades kindergarten through twelve. This is quite lengthy. It will go on to say that it should be noted that lengthy and specific approval process was needed before the affiliation petition went into effect. The Class I districts and all the high school districts involved had to approve the petition and it also had to go through an approval process involving, at that time, the county reorganization committee. Or if more than one county was involved, a joint county reorganization committee and the state reorganization committee. In the case of Kalamazoo Class I district, Madison County District 97, which this